Indo-Bulgarian agreement

1121. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bulgaria have recently signed any agreement;

(b) if so, the details of areas in which both the countries have signed such agreement; and

(c) what are the terms and other details of the agreement and by when the agreement is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes Sir. Six Agreements were signed with Bulgaria on May 26, 1994 during President's visit to Bulgaria (26-29 May), 1994), namely, Agreement on Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism, Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances; Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation, Agreement on Tourism Cooperation; Agreement on Quarantine and Plant Protection; Veterinary and Sanitary Agreement; and, a Protocal for Consultations and Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

(b) and (c) The Agreement for Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and the Ministry of Interior of Bulgaria. It provides for exchange of information, regulations, fruits of research, equipment and experts for the purpose of combating international terrorism, narcotics, organized crime including economic offences, forgery, illegal arms deals etc.

The Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation is to be implemented by the Ministries of Finance of both countries. This Agreement provides for protection of citizens from double taxation on incomes earned in their country from business, employment, athletic or artistic performances and prevention of tax evasion. This is a basic agreement facilitating greater interaction, particularly between the business and entrepreneurial communities of both countries.

The Agreement on Tourism Cooperation is to be implemented by the Departments of Tourism of both countries. It provides for Joint tourism promotion and publicity, simplification of travel formalities, encouraging investment in tourism, exchange of information and personnel.

The Agreement on Quarantine and Plant Protection is to be implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture of both countries. This Agreement provides for cooperation to prevent the penetration of diseases, pests and weeds on plants and plant products. It envisages joint action in issuing phyto sanitary certificates, exchange of information, monitoring import, export and transit of live plants, seeds, plant products with a view to controlling infectious diseases.

The Veterinary and Sanitary Agreement is to be implemented by the Agricultural Ministries of both countries. This Agreement provides for cooperation to preserve their territories from epizootics in case of exports, imports and transit of live animals, materials for animal reproduction infectious diseases. It envisages exchange of information, regulations, experts as well as joint efforts at research, development and prevention.

The Protocol for Consultations and Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria provides for consultations at the level of Ministers, senior officials, delegations to the UN and other international fora, Embassies and Consulates in third countries, on bilateral, regional and global issues.

Whereas the Protocol for Consultations and Cooperation entered into force on 26 May, 1994, the other Agreements will be implemented after requirements of

domestic legislation have been met on both sides and notifications exchanged to this effect. This process is expected to be completed in the near future.

Permanent Membership of India in Security Council

1122. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US have supported permanent membership to India in the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the efforts being made by Government to get the permanent membership and the number of countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) to (c) India took the initiative in 1992 in sponsoring the resolution 47/62 entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of Security Council", which was adopted by consensus. Similarly, India played a key role in the adoption of a follow-up resolution 48/26 in 1993. In pursuance of this resolution an open-ended Working Group of the UNGA has been established to consider all aspects of the question of an increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council. The question of membership of individual countries is not being discussed at this stage in the Working Group.

Discussion on Bilateral Issues between India and Slovakia

1123. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Slovakia recently visited India;

(b) if so, details thereof with details of issues discussed;

(c) whether these issues include bilateral matters;

(d) whether these issues also include sale of latest T-72 Tanks and other defence equipments to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this visit will strengthen the ties between the two countries;

(g) whether Government propose to send some high powered delegation to Slovakia to settle the discussed issues; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) Yes Sir. Mr. Jozef Moravcik, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic paid an official visit to India on July 7-8, 1994

(b) to (h) The Slovak Prime Minister called on President and Vice-President and also had a meeting with Prime Minister in which Ministers and senior officials from both sides were present. MoS(EA) Shri Salman Khurshid called on Prime Minister Moravcik.

Bilateral and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Slovak Prime Minister apprised our leadership of his country's position on perception of major global issues, with particular reference to developments in Europe as well as of the internal political and economic situation in Slovakia. He was in turn briefed on the processes of economic liberalisation underway in India and on the Kashmir issue. The Slovak side conveyed that on the Kashmir issue, it favours the Bilateral approach without its internationalisation.

Bilateral matters, in particular prospects of economic cooperation in the light of the ongoing economic changes in India and the Slovak Republic were discussed. Both sides stressed the mutual desire to build upon their past tradition of cooperation